Emigration
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SAINT LUCIA.

THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF IMMIGRANTS.

1891.

CASTRIES:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1892.

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THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF IMMIGRANTS.

IMMIGRATION OFFICE,
ST. LUCIA, 12th July, 1892.

His Honour
V. S. GOULDSBURY, Esquire, M.D., C.M.G.,
Administrator of the Government.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit the fourteenth annual report of the Immigration Department of the Colony, being for the year 1891.

2. The principal event of the year was the arrival on the 31st March of the S.S. *Roumania*, bringing 554 Indian immigrants from Calcutta. There were, in addition, two passengers, relatives of the immigrants, who paid their own passage money. The *Roumania* was the first ship that brought immigrants through the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. She left Calcutta on the 10th of February, with 556 souls, and landed in St. Lucia 554. During the voyage there were three births; and five deaths took place. And a birth and a death occurred in Castries Harbour before the lot was landed.

3. Classified according to ordinance, with some necessary alterations in the ages, the immigrants stand thus in the records of the office:—

Adults.		Minors.		Infants.	Total
M.	F.	M.	F.		
309	126	7	7	105	554

They were assigned to twelve estates that feed the four usines of the Colony.

4. On the whole, the condition in which the immigrants were debarked, was excellent. But there were two serious exceptions. The number sent from the ship to the hospital was unusually large, and a considerable number of the smaller children were extremely emaciated.

5. The lot was distinguished by a fair sprinkling of seasoned immigrants, 19 of them having served their time in various countries, thus, 21 in Demerara, 7 in Jamaica, 5 in Trinidad, 5 in Mauritius, 5 in St. Lucia itself, 3 in Surinam, 2 in Natal, and 1 in Guadeloupe.

6. The vital statistics of the lot, to the 31st of December 1891, is thus exhibited:—

There were landed from the *Roumania*—

	Adults.		Minors.		Infants.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		
There were born ...	309 ...	126 ...	7 ...	7 ...	105 12	554 Souls. 12
					117	566
There died ...	1	2	...	...	19	22
There remained alive ...	308	124	7	7	98	544

showing a natural decrease of ten souls.

7. During the nine months which constitute the time of the report, the death rate, leaving out the high mortality of the infants, was very low, only three adults having died. This is in a great measure to be attributed to the fine dry weather that prevailed for many months after the arrival of the immigrants. In point of fact there was no rainy season last year, and the first effects of change of climate were not aggravated, as usual, by heavy continuous rains.

8. The exception to this favourable report was the large number of infants that died. But this was expected from the number of miserable frames that were landed. No gladiatorial salutations of the *morituri* were more truly prophetic than the sunken eyes and shrivelled limbs of many of the infants that were presented for inspection on the arrival of the ship. Hence no astonishment was felt as the little things died one after another in rapid succession, till in five months their roll of death had reached twelve.

9. It is a pleasure to pass from this sad picture to the many bright incidents connected with this new importation. Having good health, they rendered excellent service, and earned fine wages. Their good character and flourishing finances may be judged from the fact, that, though they began to work only in April, after five months they were lodging money for transmission to India, four of them having sent £11 in August, and by the end of the year, that is in nine months, sixteen had remitted a total of £40 15*s*. During the same period, £41 had been deposited in the Savings Bank by eighteen of them. They are also the most literary set of immigrants we have had. The record of correspondence shows, that, of 165 letters despatched to India, from May to December, 134 were from these *Roumania* immigrants; and of 59 letters received from India, from August, when the first for this lot was received, 37 were delivered to the new arrivals.

10. Apart from the arrival of the immigrants by the *Roumania*, there were few interesting incidents. But the visit of Dr. Comins, Protector of Emigrants from Calcutta, deserves to be chronicled. Dr. Comins spent about a fortnight here in May. Arriving shortly after the distribution of the *Roumania* lot, and at the first operation of the new Immigration Ordinance, things had not settled into regular routine. But he saw for himself the country, the means of intercourse, the estates, the immigrants' dwellings and the hospitals. He also collected statistics, one or two items of which I do not think it amiss to introduce here, viz., that on 22 estates there resided 1640 Indians, 228 of whom were possessers of stock of various kinds, to wit, 20 horses, 1 ass, 480 head of cattle, 109 sheep, and 96 goats. The entire population of Indians being under 2500, this shows that a fair proportion of them are propertied men. Some leading men had also begun to purchase crown lands not far from Castries. The design is to form an Indian settlement, chiefly of peasant proprietors, near to the market of the principal town, and close to an extensive sugar estate where spare labourers will be always welcome.

11. Another incident of the year was the passing of an amended Immigration Ordinance, much needed to embody the experience of twelve years. Perhaps the most important addition was a provision fixing a penalty on any manager who should allow the Protector of Immigrants or any Medical Officer to discover a case of yaws among the immigrants on his estate. This applies to all immigrants, whether under or out of indenture. The anxiety lest this unsightly malady should be sent to the millions of India renders the despatching of a shipload of return immigrants a very trying time. The most minute and searching examination has to be made of every passenger.

12. The expected incidents of 1891 included the return to India of the lot of immigrants who were introduced in the *Bann* in 1881. As the people had made every preparation to leave for home at a given date, it was a bitter disappointment for them to learn at the last moment that no accommodation could be procured. The compensation of a pound for every six months of unwilling detention is only a palliation, a very partial consolation. The proportion of return immigrants from this colony is large as compared with the number returning from Demerara; and this must continue for a long time apparently. In Demerara there are now so many Indians, and they are massed in such large numbers, that it must appear to those that arrive there that they have only gone to a more distant part of their own country. Hence they settle permanently in large numbers. Should not St. Lucia aim at the same result?

13. The children of immigrants residing near towns or villages are at liberty to attend school in those towns or villages. But schools, specially organised for Indian children by the Canadian Mission, whose head quarters are in Trinidad, are to be found in various parts of the island. At the end of the year these schools numbered five. The funds of these schools are largely augmented by grants-in-aid from the Government; and the accommodations for teachers and scholars are generously provided by the proprietors of the estates on which they are situated.

14. The small number of Indian orphans in the colony does not authorise a regular establishment for them. But a kind old dame has been found in Castries willing to take care of them for a small pittance from the Government. The orphans remain with her until they are big enough to be given away to respectable families. They are instructed in the three Rs. The care and attention bestowed on these orphans by the good old dame are most praiseworthy, and deserve this public recognition.

15. The condition of the staple product of the island, towards which the Indian Immigrants are important factors, forms a fitting close of the report. The anticipated falling off in the sugar crop was more than realised. The export of crystals was 2565 tons against 3522 in 1890, and of muscovado sugar 973 tons against 1461.

The usual tables follow.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Honour's most obedient

and humble servant,

R. P. CROPPER,

Protector of Immigrants.

A.

RETURN showing the Work and Wages of Indentured Indian Immigrants on twelve Estates during the Nine Months ended 31st December, 1891.

MEN.

ESTATES.	No. of men.	Total days.	Average days of each.	Ditto Per week.	Total Earnings.	Average Earnings of each.	Ditto Per week.	Per day of each.	Highest No. of days of one man.	Highest Earnings of one man.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Black Bay	6	1151	191	4·89	57 11 6	9 11 11	4 11	1 0	221½	11 1 6
Crown Lands	91	10788	118	3·02	625 16 0	6 17 6¼	3 6¼	1 1¼	195½	17 7 8
Hope	18	2733	151	3·87	137 19 1	7 13 3½	3 11	1 0	221½	11 2 10
La Caye	38	4493	118	3·02	234 17 10	6 3 7½	3 2	1 0½	214½	12 17 1
Mont d'Or	15	1693	112	2·87	84 13 10	5 12 11	2 10½	1 0	162⅓	8 2 10
Pelute	12	2173	181	4·64	108 15 6	9 1 3½	4 7¾	1 0	221½	11 3 6
Peru	15	2190	146	3·74	109 10 4	7 6 0¼	3 8	1 0	209½	10 9 6
Pointe Sable	6	1143	190	4·87	57 3 10	9 10 7½	4 10½	1 0	218⅔	10 18 8
Ressource	29	3900	134	3·43	200 3 8	6 18 0½	3 6¼	1 0¼	220½	12 8 0
Retraite	17	3001	176	4·51	150 1 0	8 13 0	4 2¼	1 0	209	10 9 0
Richefond	28	4936	176	4·51	249 8 8	8 18 2	4 6¾	1 0	219	11 4 9
Roseau	30	4050	135	3·46	202 10 7	6 15 0	3 5½	1 0	178½	8 18 6

Highest No. of days of one man 221½. Highest Earnings of one man £17 7 8.

WOMEN.

ESTATES.	No. of women.	Total days.	Average days of each.	Ditto Per week.	Total Earnings.	Average Earnings of each	Ditto Per week.	Per day of each.	Highest No. of days of one woman.	Highest Earnings of one woman.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Black Bay	2	323	161	4·12	13 10 5	6 15 2½	3 5½	10	174	7 5 0
Crown Lands	37	4433	119	3·05	203 17 6	5 10 2¼	2 9¾	11	180½	9 18 5
Hope	8	1093	136	3·48	45 10 10	5 13 10¼	2 11	10	173	7 4 2
La Caye	18	2115	117	3·00	88 7 6	4 18 2	2 6	10	220	9 [illegible] 6
Mont d'Or	5	432	86	2·20	19 16 2	3 19 2¾	2 0¼	11	119½	5 14 1
Pelute	4	697	174	4·46	29 0 10	7 5 2½	3 8½	10	190	7 18 4
Peru	4	440	110	2·82	20 8 5	5 2 1¼	2 7¼	11	130	5 18 4
Pointe Sable	2	333	166	4·25	13 18 4	6 19 2	3 0¾	10	180	7 11 3
Ressource	10	1238	123	3·15	51 19 2	5 3 11	2 7¾	10	180	7 15 11
Retraite	7	799	114	2·92	33 6 3	4 15 2	2 5¼	10	182½	7 12 1
Richefond	9	1302	144	3·69	54 11 1	6 1 2¾	3 1¼	10	197	8 4 6
Roseau	9	1019	113	2·89	49 4 4	5 9 4¼	2 9½	11½	155	7 12 4

Highest No. of days of one woman 220. Highest Earnings of one woman £9 18 5.

B.

RETURN showing the number of Births among the Indentured Indian Immigrants during Nine Months, to 31st December, 1891.

Births.	Indian Population.	Rate per 1000.
12	554	21·66

C.

RETURN showing the number of Deaths among the Indentured Indian Immigrants during Nine Months, to 31st December, 1891.

Date.		Deaths.					Indian Population.	Rate per 1000.	Cause of death.	Place of Death.	Place of Indenture.
		Adult.		Non-Adult.	Infant.	Total.					
		M.	F.								
1891											
April	6				1	1			Whooping Cough	Vieux Fort H.	Pointe Sable
,,	8				1	1			Marasmus	Vict. Hospital	Pelute (A)
,,	17				1	1			Bronchitis	,,	Crown Lds. (B)
,,	18				1	1			Debility	Richefond	Richefond
,,	18				1	1			,,	,,	,,
,,	24				1	1			Bronchitis	Vict. Hospital	Roseau (C)
May	1				1	1			Dropsy	,,	La Caye
,,	3				1	1			Whooping Cough	Crown Lands	Crown Lands
,,	15				1	1			,,	Vieux Fort H	Pelute
June	17				1	1			Anæmia	Vict. Hospital	Peru
July	2				1	1			Debility	Crown Lands	Crown Lands
,,	2				1	1			,,	La Caye	La Caye
,,	9	1				1			Diarrhœa	Vieux Fort H.	Retraite
,,	14				1	1			Worm Fits	Dennery H	Richefond
,,	22				1	1			Marasmus	Vict. Hospital	Roseau
,,	25				1	1			Fever	Crown Lands	Crown Lands
,,	26				1	1			Marasmus	Vict. Hospital	,,
Aug.	3				1	1			,,	Dennery H.	La Caye
,,	23				1	1			Worms	Road to ,,	Ressource
Sept.	5		1			1			Fever	Vict. Hospital	Mont d'Or
,,	16		1			1			Fatty Degeneration of Heart	La Caye	La Caye
Dec.	24				1	1			Convulsions	Vieux Fort H	Pelute
		1	2		19	22	566	38·86			

A, B, C, were infants sent from the ship to Hospital, who died before reaching their estates.

D.

ANALYSIS of Causes of Death.

Anæmia	1
Bronchitis	2
Convulsions	2
Debility	4
Diarrhœa	1
Dropsy	1
Fever	2
Heart, Fatty Degeneration of	1
Marasmus	3
Whooping Cough	3
Worms	2
11 Diseases	22

E.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

Indentured Indian Immigrants admitted for the Quarter ending 30th June, and the Half-Year ending 31st December, 1891.

DISEASES TREATED.	Quarter ending 30th June 1891.				Half Year ending 31st December 1891.			
	Cured.	Relieved.	Died.	Under treatment.	Cured.	Relieved.	Died.	Under treatment.
Abscess	13	....	...	...	5	...	...	1
Anæmia and Splenitis	6	...	3	1	3	...	2	5
Burn	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Disease of Bones and Joints .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ Chest	18	...	2	2	9	...	...	...
„ „ Digestive Organs ...	34	...	...	...	19	...	...	1
„ „ Eyes and Ears	13	...	...	...	8	...	...	...
„ „ Genito-Urinary Organs ...	2	...	...	1	5	...	...	...
„ „ Nervous System... ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
„ „ Skin	31	...	...	10	33	...	...	7
Fractures and Dislocations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Fever	20	...	...	4	122	...	1	11
Rheumatism	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Syphilis	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Ulcer	23	...	...	9	32	...	...	...
Wounds and Contusions	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	94	...	...	...	63	...	...	...

C. DENNEHY,
Colonial Surgeon.

F.

DISEASES treated in the Vieux Fort Hospital among the Indentured Immigrants during April to June 1891.

DISEASES.	No. of Cases	Discharged cured.	Died.	Under treatment.	Total.
Respiratory	8	7	1	...	8
Digestive	11	9	1	1	11
Integumentary	15	14	...	1	15
Fever	12	11	...	1	12
Abscess	1	1	...		1
Rheumatism	1	1	...	...	1
Bones and Ligaments	4	4	...	...	4
Ulcers	9	3	...	6	9
Miscellaneous	8	6	...	2	8
Confinement	1	1	...	...	1
Total	70	57	2	11	70

F.—*continued.*

From July to December 1891.

DISEASES.	No. of Cases.	Discharged. cured	Died.	Under treatment.	Total.
Nervous	1	...	1	...	1
Respiratory	4	4	...	...	4
Digestive	7	6	1	...	7
Integumentary	11	11	...	...	11
Visual	1	1	...	...	1
Fever	111	101	...	10	111
Abscess	7	7	...	...	7
Rheumatism	3	3	...	...	3
Ulcers	24	24	...	...	24
Anæmia and Debility	2	2	...	...	2
Wounds &c.	3	3	...	...	3
Venereal	1	1	...	...	1
Snake bite	1	1	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	11	11	...	...	11
Total	187	175	2	10	187

J. A. LESTRADE, *Col. Asst. Surgeon.*

G.

CLASSIFICATION of Diseases treated amongst Indentured Immigrants at Dennery Hospital during the year 1891.

DISEASES.	May 18th—June.				July—December.			
	Discharged.		No. of deaths.	Under treatment at the end of June.	Discharged.		No. of deaths.	Under treatment at the end of Dec.
	Cured.	Relieved			Cured.	Relieved		
Anæmia and Debility	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	1
Diseases of the Bones and Joints ...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
„ „ „ Genito Urinary Organs	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
„ „ „ Circulatory Organs ...	1	...	...	...	7	...	...	...
„ „ „ Digestive Organs ...	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	2
„ „ „ Skin	14	...	...	1	10	...	...	1
„ „ „ Ears and Eyes ...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
„ „ „ Nervous System ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Fevers	27	...	...	5	133	...	...	6
Ulcers	5	...	...	5	45	...	...	...
Abscess	3	...	...	1	6	...	...	...
Fractures	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Cutting and wounding	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Worm Fits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Hernia	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	8	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Children not sick accompanying their mother or *vice versa*	8	...	...	...	7	...	...	...

V. E. TALON, *Col. Asst. Surgeon.*

H.

RETURN showing the number of complaints brought before the Stipendiary Magistrates by Employers against Indentured Immigrants during nine months of the year 1891.

District.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Complaint.	Non-Conviction.	Conviction.	Punishment.	Remarks.
I	2	Damaging property		2 { 1	Fined 20/- or 7 days with H. L.	Imprisnd.
				{ 1	„ 2/6 or 1 day „ „	Paid
	6	Absent from Roll-call	5	1	„ 2/6 or 1 day's hard labour	Paid
	1	Desertion		1	„ 20/- or 7 days' „	Imprisnd.
	2	Absent from Estate without leave		2	„ 20/- each or 10 days' H. L.	„
	10	Absent from work	5	5 { 1	„ £1 or 14 days' hard labour	„
				{ 1	„ „ „ „	„
				{ 1	„ „ and 2/- costs or 14 days' hard labour	„
				{ 1	„ 10/- or 7 days' hard labour	„
				{ 1	„ £1 or 14 „ „	„
	6	Assault and beat	6			
	27		16	11		
III	5	Absence from work	2	3	„ 10/- each and 1/4 costs	Paid
	1	Persuading others to refuse work	1			
	6	Refuse to work		6 { 5	„ Costs 1s. 7½d. each	„
				{ 1	„ 14/- and costs 10/-	„
	1	Insulting Language		1	„ 10/- and costs	„
	13		3	10		
Total	40		19	21		

K.

INDENTURED Immigrant *versus* Employer.

District.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Complaint.	Non-Conviction.	Conviction.	Punishment.	Remarks.
III	1	Assault	1			

L.

STATEMENT of the Rates of Wages, Price of Food, and other matters affecting the condition of the Indian Immigrants in this Colony for the year 1891.

WAGES—BY TIME.

Men receive ... ... 1 shilling per day of 9 hours.
Women „ ... ... 10 pence „ „ „

BY TASK.

Holing done by men from	100 to 175 holes	...	...	...	1 shilling.
Cross Holing „ „	80 to 250 „	...	...	...	1 „
Hoe ploughing „ „	150 to 250 „	...	...	...	1 „
Weeding „ „	80 to 300 „	...	...	...	1 „
„ women „	70 to 260 „	...	...	...	10 pence.
Hauling trash (men)	150 to 300	...	...	...	1 shilling.
„ (women)	120 to 250	...	...	...	10 pence.
Stripping trash (men)	200 to 500	...	...	...	1 shilling.
„ (women)	160 to 300	...	...	...	10 pence.
Cutting Canes (men)	175 to 300	...	...	...	1 shilling.
Filling Waggons with canes (men)		...	...	..	6*d.* to 8*d.* a waggon.

The size of the task varies according as the soil is light or heavy; according as fields have few or many weeds; according as there are few or many canes in a stool. The strong and active women frequently take the same task as the men, and get a shilling. Children earn 3*d.* to 6*d.* a day, Minors earn 9*d.* to 1/- a day.

It is not uncommon for strong men to finish 1½ or even 2 tasks a day.

Men attending the mill receive a special extra for breakfast hour; so do the women.

Dwellings—Free of charge.

Gardens—Every adult has a right to the use of ¼ acre of land.

Doctors—A medical officer visits the Estates in his district twice a month.

Hospitals—Each district has its Hospital, to which immigrants are admitted free of charge.

Medicines—are likewise free, when Immigrants are treated on their Estates.

FOOD.

Prices—Fish. Salted Cod 3*d.* to 4*d.* a lb. Pickled Herrings 2*d.* a lb.
„ Fresh, 4*d.* to 6*d.* a lb.
Beef 7*d.*, Mutton 8*d.*, Pork 8*d.*, a lb.
Poultry 9*d.* a lb.
Rice 2*d.*, Wheat Flour 2½*d.* a lb.
Farine (Manioc) (Cassava flour) 1½*d.* a lb.
Wheaten Bread 2½*d.* a lb.
Vegetables 1*d.* a lb.
Olive Oil 6*d.* a pint.
Butter, Coarse, 1/4 a lb.
Sugar, Muscovado, 2*d.* a lb.